

HB 1709 with HCA 1 -- PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT

SPONSOR: Lair

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Pensions by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with Amendments by Consent" by the Select Committee on Rules by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill allows retired members of the Public School or Public Education Employees Retirement Systems who have elected a reduced retirement allowance to provide for survivor benefits for his or her spouse to have the retirement allowance increased to the single life annuity amount, with no survivor benefits, if the member and his or her spouse become divorced on or after September 1, 2016 only if the dissolution decree provides for sole retention by the retired person of all rights in the retirement allowance.

Any such increase in the retirement allowance will be effective upon the receipt of an application for the increase and a certified copy of the decree of dissolution that meets the requirements.

This bill is similar to HB 1086 (2015).

HCA #1: This amendment makes a technical correction to intersectional reference and language.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill allows for a pop-up provision in the event a retired member gets divorced and that person is eligible to keep all of his or her retirement benefits under the court decree.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lair; Public School Retirement System of Missouri; Missouri Merchants And Manufacturers Association; Missouri Retired Teachers Association; and the Missouri State Teachers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.